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ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE

HEALTH

OF THE

URBAN DISTRICT OF WILLENHALL

FOR THE YEAR

1950



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PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health and Assistant County Medical Officer :

R. M. Campbell, M.A., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

(Resigned on 31st March, 1950).

E. P. McWhirter, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

(Acting from 1st April, 1950).

P. J. Fitzgerald, L.R.C.P.I., L.R.C.S.I., D.P.H.

(Commenced 1st February, 1951).

Senior Sanitary Inspector :

H. E. T. Lowbridge, Cert. S.I.B., Cert. Meat and Other Foods,
Cert. in Sanitary Science as applied to Buildings and Public Works.

Deputy Sanitary Inspector :

G. Lowbridge, Cert. S.I.B., Cert. Meat and Other Foods.

Additional Sanitary Inspectors :

G. E. Fletcher, Cert. S.I.B., Cert. Meat and Other Foods.

T. W. Jones, Cert. S.I.B., Cert. Meat and Other Foods.

Pupil Sanitary Inspector :

J. A. Richards (Re-commenced following military service 1st
September, 1950).

Clerical Staff :

Miss G. Davis.

Miss O. J. Power (Resigned 6th July, 1950).

Miss A. K. Russell (Resigned 29th April, 1950).

Miss E. G. Duffield (Commenced 31st May, 1950).

Miss M. Oliver (Commenced 17th July, 1950).

Public Health Offices,
Walsall Street,
Willenhall,
Staffs.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
WILLENHALL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report on the Health of the Urban District of Willenhall for the year 1950.

The work of your public health department during the year was under the control of Dr. R. M. Campbell, who resigned on the 31st March, 1950, and for the remainder of the year Dr. E. P. McWhirter, Medical Officer of Health of Darlaston Urban District acted as Medical Officer of Health to this district. My comments therefore on the health of the district for the year in question are not those gained by a first hand and intimate experience of the activities of the department but rather those of one who surveys and reflects upon them from a distance.

The report is set out like that for the previous year and has been prepared on the lines indicated in the Ministry of Health Circular 2/50.

The birth rate of 16.2 shows a slight decline from that of the previous year but compared with that of the smaller towns and the country as a whole shows little difference. The downward trend of this rate in recent years continues uninterrupted. perhaps a reflection of the difficult times in which we live.

The death rate of 10.3 compares with 9.48 for 1949. The corrected death rate of 12.97 is only slightly higher than the rate of 11.6 for England and Wales and a similar rate of 11.6 for the smaller towns.

Still births show an increase over the previous year and were 3.8% of the total births compared with 2.06% in 1949 and the still birth rate per 1000 of the population was 0.65 compared with rates of 0.37 and 0.38 for the country as a whole and the smaller towns. Similarly the infant mortality rate of 49.9 is slightly higher than the rate of 47.4 for 1949 and considerably in excess of the rate of 29.4 for England and Wales. Of these infant deaths 76% occurred in the first month of life and the causes of death at this period were due to prematurity and congenital malformations or defects.

These deaths are attributable to many complex factors but there is no doubt that the state of health of the expectant mother, her nutrition and diet if unsatisfactory, unhygienic conditions and poor housing are factors of great importance in this loss of infant life. In this respect it has been found that the uptake of vitamin tablets, Cod liver oil, and orange juice by expectant mothers in Willenhall as shown by the Ministry of Food returns is not satisfactory and leaves room for considerable improvement.

The prevalence of measles and whooping cough during the year resulted in an increase of notifications of infectious diseases compared with 1949. There were three cases of diphtheria in 1950 compared with two in 1949. It is pleasing to note that both the incidence and severity of this disease, not so long ago a potent cause of the loss of young lives, continues to decline to a very low level. Diphtheria immunisation has been one of the notable triumphs of preventive medicine but while figures for immunisation carried out in 1950 are not available it is felt that many parents are becoming careless in this respect and are inclined to forget or ignore its importance now that the disease is of low prevalence. Immunisation gives a high level of immunity to young children, the most susceptible members of the population. Inoculations against whooping cough are not given at the County Council's clinics in this district. The prevention of whooping cough by prophylactic inoculation has not up to now been attended by nearly the same success as in the case of diphtheria. There is however reason to believe that as a result of recent experimental work with different vaccines a more potent and reliable prophylactic will be available before long. Despite the country wide prevalence of poliomyelitis in 1950 only three cases of the disease were notified in the district.

Tuberculosis notifications declined slightly and the deaths from this disease in 1950 exceeded only by one the figure reached in 1949 which was the lowest on record. Tuberculosis is still a major cause of death especially among the younger age groups. The decline in notification and mortality figures though encouraging to note are by no means a reason for complacency. Although advances in the treatment of this disease and new drugs have reduced mortality the unfavourable environmental factors responsible for the breakdown in the patients health and spread of infection are only too obvious. The rehousing of tuberculous families without delay is of prime importance.

In conclusion may I express my thanks to the Chairman and members of the Public Health Committee, also to the staff of the department for their assistance in the preparation of this report.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

P. J. FITZGERALD,
Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A

GENERAL STATISTICS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres)	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,832
Population :							
(a) 1931 Census	...	...	...	...	...	...	26,195
(b) Registrar-General's Estimate for mid-year 1950	...	...	...	...	...	...	30,960
Population density per acre	...	...	...	...	...	...	10.88
Rateable Value of district at 1/4/50	...	...	...	...	...	...	£131,496
General Rate (1950-1951)	...	...	...	...	...	...	19s. 6d.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1950.

Births.

Live Births.			<i>Total.</i>		<i>Males.</i>		<i>Females.</i>
Legitimate	...	...	485	...	238	...	247
Illegitimate	...	...	16	...	14	...	2
			<hr/>		<hr/>		<hr/>
Total	...	...	501	...	252	...	249
			<hr/>		<hr/>		<hr/>

Birth Rate per 1,000 population : 16.2.

Comparability factor for births : 0.97.

Corrected Birth Rate : 15.9.

Still Births.			<i>Total.</i>		<i>Males.</i>		<i>Females.</i>
Legitimate	...	...	20	...	9	...	11
Illegitimate	...	...	—	...	—	...	—
			<hr/>		<hr/>		<hr/>
Total	...	...	20	...	9	...	11
			<hr/>		<hr/>		<hr/>

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total births : 38.4.

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 population : 0.65.

Deaths.

			<i>Total.</i>		<i>Males.</i>		<i>Females.</i>
Deaths (all causes)	...	...	321	...	181	...	140

Crude Death Rate per 1,000 population : 10.3.

Comparability factor for deaths : 1.26.

Corrected Death Rate : 12.97.

Maternal Deaths : Nil.

Infant Deaths under one year of age.

				<i>Total.</i>		<i>Males.</i>		<i>Females.</i>
Legitimate	...	...	...	25	...	17	...	8
Illegitimate	...	...	...	—	...	—	...	—
				—		—		—
Total	...	...	...	25	...	17	...	8
				—		—		—

Infant Mortality Rate.

Death rate of infants under one year of age per 1,000 live births : 49.9.

Infant Deaths under four weeks of age.

				<i>Total.</i>		<i>Males.</i>		<i>Females.</i>
Legitimate	...	...	...	19	...	12	...	7
Illegitimate	...	...	...	—	...	—	...	—
				—		—		—
Total	...	...	...	19	...	12	...	7
				—		—		—

Neo-Natal Mortality Rate.

Deaths of infants under four weeks of age per 1,000 live births : 37.9.

NOTES ON VITAL STATISTICS.

Population.

The Registrar-General's estimate for the population of Willenhall for the mid-year 1950 was 30,960 being a slight increase of 160 over the corresponding figure for 1949. The natural increase in population for the year 1950, that is the excess of births over deaths, was 180.

Births.

During 1950 there were 501 live births, 252 of which were male and 249 female. Illegitimate births numbered 16, 14 male and two female, and were 3.2% of the total births, compared with 3.7% of the total last year.

The birth rate was 16.2 per 1,000 of the population compared with a rate of 18.5 for 1949 and an average rate of 20.4 for the previous five years (1945.49). In order to compare the birth rate with the rates for England and Wales and the smaller towns of comparable size to Willenhall, a comparability factor is applied to the birth rate giving a standardised or corrected birth rate of 15.7 which compares with a rate of 15.8 for England and Wales and a rate of 16.7 for the smaller towns.

Still births numbered 20 of which nine were male and eleven female, they were 3.8% of the total births compared with 2.06% in 1949. The still birth rate expressed per 1,000 total births was 38.4 compared with 20.6 in 1949, 23.0 in 1948, and calculated per 1,000 of the population was 0.65 the corresponding rates for the Country as a whole and the smaller towns being 0.37 and 0.38 respectively.

Deaths.

There were 321 deaths during 1950 of which 181 were male and 140 female giving a death rate of 10.3 per 1,000 of the population compared with a rate of 9.48 for 1949. Applying the comparability factor to this crude death rate a standardised or corrected death rate of 12.97 per 1,000 is obtained. This compares with a rate of 11.6 for England and Wales, 12.3 for the County Boroughs and Great Towns and 11.6 for the smaller towns.

Deaths from certain causes '—

Deaths from Diseases of the Heart and Bloodvessels	...	...	...	...	132	41.1%
Deaths from Cancer	...	...	...	...	50	15.5%
Deaths from Bronchitis and other Respiratory Diseases	...	...	...	...	29	9%
Deaths from Tuberculosis (Respiratory)	...				12	3.7%
Deaths from Tuberculosis (Other Forms)					Nil	—
Deaths from Accidents	...	...	...		8	2.5%
Suicide	...	...	...	...	4	—

Principal Causes of Death.

The principal causes of death during 1950 were diseases of the heart and bloodvessels (including intracranial vascular lesions) cancer and tuberculosis.

Heart and Vascular Disease.

Diseases of the heart and bloodvessels caused 132 deaths or 41% of the total deaths compared with 95 or 32.5% of the total deaths in 1949. This is the chief cause of death at the present time and the following table analyses the group further making a comparison with similar figures for 1949 :—

Diseases of Heart and Bloodvessels.

	1949.		1950.	
	Total Cases.	% of total deaths.	Total Cases.	% of total deaths.
Heart Disease ...	62	21.2	79	24.6
Other Circulatory Disease ...	7	2.4	13	4.0
Intracranial Vascular Lesions ...	26	8.9	40	12.4
Total ...	95	32.5	132	41.0

Cancer.

Cancer caused 50 deaths or 15.5% of the total deaths. There were 38 deaths from this cause in 1949, 45 and 44 in 1948 and 1947 respectively. Deaths from cancer appear to be increasing, whether this upward trend which appears to be a general experience is due to a real increase or due to increased longevity bringing more people into the cancer age group or simply to more accurate diagnosis is still not clear. Cancer of the lung caused eight deaths compared with two in the previous year.

Bronchitis and Other Respiratory Diseases.

Deaths from Bronchitis and other respiratory diseases numbered 29 compared with 33 in 1949 but generally show little change from the figures in recent years.

Tuberculosis.

Tuberculosis caused 12 deaths compared with 11 in the previous year. These were due to the respiratory form of the disease, there being no deaths due to non-pulmonary tuberculosis. This figure is well below the average 24.6 for the five year period 1944-1948 and with the exception of last year is the lowest since 1912.

Deaths from Violent Causes.

There were 12 deaths from violent causes, four of which were classed to suicide, three to motor vehicle accidents and five to all other accidents.

Age at Death.

Of the total deaths recorded 193 or 60% occurred in persons aged 65 years or over.

Infant Mortality.

There were 25 deaths of infants under one year of which 17 were male and 8 female. There were no deaths of illegitimate infants. The infant mortality rate for the year was 49.9. The rate for England and Wales was 29.8 for the large towns 33.8 and for the smaller towns 29.4.

The following are the infant mortality rates in Willenhall over the past five years compared with the rate for 1950 :—

Infant Mortality, 1945-50.

1945		1946		1947		1948		1949		1950
54.2	...	64.1	...	47.5	...	44.0	...	47.4	...	49.9

Of the 25 infants who died under one year, 19 did not survive beyond the first month giving a neo-natal mortality rate of 37.9 compared with 24.4 in 1949. The table on page 32 gives the causes of infant deaths at different age periods, congenital malformations or defects and prematurity being the chief cause of infant mortality in 1950. Infections were responsible for four deaths and accidents caused two infant deaths. Of the deaths due to congenital malformations or defects 80% occurred under one month and all the deaths ascribed to prematurity occurred before this age.

Maternal Mortality.

There were no maternal deaths in 1950.

SECTION B.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND OTHER DISEASES.

There were 492 cases of notifiable diseases compared with 239 in 1949, 547 in 1948 and 618 in 1947. The increased incidence during the year in comparison with 1949 was due to an increase in notifications of measles and whooping cough, other infections generally being less prevalent. There were six cases of diphtheria notified compared with nine in the previous year. Scarlet Fever notifications showed a reduction of 50% approximately from 31 in 1949 to 15 in 1950, and were the lowest recorded since 1943. There were 187 notifications of whooping cough, the highest number since the disease became notifiable in 1940. There were only three cases of Acute Poliomyelitis (including Polioencephalitis) notified during the year despite the fact that this disease was epidemic in the Country as a whole, and outbreaks occurred in many areas locally during the summer and autumn.

Deaths from Infectious Diseases.

Only one death, that from Acute Poliomyelitis, occurred from infectious diseases other than tuberculosis notified during the year.

Pulmonary tuberculosis caused 12 deaths, there being no deaths from other forms of tuberculosis.

Tuberculosis.

At the end of 1950 the number of cases of tuberculosis on the register was as follows :—

	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ...	161	142	303
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	35	39	74

During the year twenty names were removed from the register for the following reasons :—

Died	...	...	17
Recovered	...	...	2
Left District	...	...	1

There were 32 notifications of tuberculosis during the year, all except one being the pulmonary form of the disease.

Two cases came to notice other than for formal notification.

Notifications and deaths from this cause show little change from the previous year when the deaths revealed were the lowest since 1912. The death rate per 1,000 population from tuberculosis was 0.38 compared with 0.36 for England and Wales and 0.33 for the smaller towns.

Diphtheria.

There were six cases of this disease notified during the year compared with nine in 1949, the yearly average of notifications for the last five years 1945-1949 being 17.8. There were no deaths from diphtheria in 1950. Both the incidence and severity of the disease continues to decline.

Figures giving the number of immunisations for diphtheria were not available to the Department for the year 1950.

Scarlet Fever.

There were 15 notifications of Scarlet Fever in 1950, this being the lowest number in the last ten years 1941-1950. There were no deaths from this cause. This has become a mild disease in recent years but its severity has shown similar fluctuations in the past.

Measles.

Measles notifications numbered 255 compared with 122 in 1949. The incidence of this disease increases sharply every two years or so depending on the number of susceptible individuals in the community. The main incidence of the disease was among school children of the 5—10 year age group. There were no deaths from measles.

Whooping Cough.

There were 187 notifications of Whooping Cough the highest since 1940 when the disease became notifiable. Here again the highest incidence was in the 5—10 years age group but the disease was more prevalent than measles in the younger age groups. There were no deaths from Whooping Cough. The seriousness of this disease cannot be measured by a study of death returns. The amount of chronic ill health and chest trouble arising from Whooping Cough like Measles is out of all proportion to the severity of the disease or the deaths therefrom. Preventive inoculations for Whooping Cough are not given at the clinics at present.

Pneumonia.

There were 21 notifications of pneumonia giving a notification rate of 0.67 per 1,000 of the population compared with 0.70 for the country as a whole and 0.61 for the smaller towns.

Acute Poliomyelitis (including Polioencephalitis).

There were three notifications of this disease in 1950, the notification rate being 0.09 per 1,000 of the population compared with a rate of 0.13 for England and Wales, 0.12 for the great towns and 0.11 for the smaller towns. There was one death from this cause.

The low incidence of the disease in the district despite the undue prevalence in the country as a whole including surrounding districts illustrates the fact that the geographical distribution of this disease is very irregular.

Erysipelas.

Notifications of this condition numbered three. The notification rate of 0.09 compares with the rate of 0.17 for England and Wales and 0.16 for the smaller towns.

Puerperal Pyrexia.

There were two notifications of puerperal pyrexia, the notification rate per 1,000 total (Live and Still) births being 3.8 compared with a rate of 5.81 for England and Wales and 4.33 for the smaller towns.

Smallpox.

No case of smallpox occurred in 1950 or no contacts were under surveillance during the year.

Other Infections.

There were no notifications of Typhoid or Paratyphoid Fever, Dysentery, Meningococcal Infection or Ophthalmia Neonatorum during the year.

Cancer.

There were 50 deaths from cancer in 1950 compared with 38 in 1949 the death rate per 1,000 of the population being 1.61 in 1950 compared with 1.23 in 1949. Cancer of the lung caused eight of these deaths, six male and two female.

SECTION C.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

There have been no changes from the previous year in the arrangements of the County Council's Health Services in the area other than the transfer of the Day Nursery from Russell Street to Shepwell Green with the addition of an extra ten places.

Laboratory Facilities.

Bacteriological examinations required by General Practitioners, and by your Public Health Department are carried out at the Public Health Laboratory, Martin Street, Stafford. Samples and material for examination submitted by the Public Health Department are conveyed to Stafford by utilising the services of the laboratories' collecting van.

The chemical laboratory is at the County Buildings, Stafford.

The following services are provided by the County Council under Part III of the National Health Service Act, 1946 :—

Care of Mothers and Young Children.

Midwifery, Health visiting, Home Nursing.

Vaccination and Immunisation, Ambulance Services.

Prevention of illness, Care and after Care.

Domestic Help.

Maternity Services.

Three ante-natal clinic sessions per week are available to expectant mothers. These are held at the Willenhall Clinic on Tuesday morning and afternoon and on Friday afternoon.

There are six domiciliary midwives employed by the Staffordshire County Council in the area. Hospital accommodation for maternity cases is available at the Manor Hospital, Walsall, New Cross and Women's Hospitals, Wolverhampton. There are no Nursing Homes in the area.

Hospital admission on medical grounds is arranged by the doctor attending, if this is desired on social grounds application is made to a Health Visitor at the Willenhall Clinic.

Child Welfare Clinics.

The following Child Welfare Clinics are held each week :—

Willenhall Clinic	...	Monday and Wednesday afternoon
Short Heath Clinic	...	Friday afternoon.
Portobello Clinic	...	Thursday afternoon.

Health Visiting.

There are three Health Visitors working in the district. This number is inadequate, many routine visits having to be omitted.

Home Nursing.

There are two general nurses in the town.

Domestic Helps.

The services of a Home Help should be sought through the County Council's Area Medical Officer, Wednesbury. They are provided in cases of illness and confinement, for expectant mothers, mentally defective or aged persons.

Vaccination and Immunisation.

Vaccination against Smallpox is not carried out at the Clinics. General Practitioners in the town vaccinate those infants and children whose parents desire it.

Immunisation against diphtheria is done at the Child Welfare Clinics and at special sessions at the schools. Mothers are encouraged to have their children immunised after the age of eight months and not later than the first birthday if possible. Children attending school are offered immunisation or reinforcing doses as required at entry to school and between the ages of 10 and 11 years.

No scheme for immunisation against whooping cough is in force at present.

Ambulance Service.

A day and night Ambulance Service is provided. The Ambulance Station is at Clemson Street, Willenhall. Telephone Willenhall 580.

School Clinics.

There are two school clinics in the area, the main school clinic at Walsall Street and the Short Heath Clinic held in an adapted and hired premises.

The Willenhall Clinic for School children is open on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings. A doctor attends on Monday morning. At Short Heath a weekly clinic is held on Friday mornings, a doctor attends at this clinic once a fortnight.

Minor ailments are treated at these clinics, delicate and underweight children are kept under observation and advice is given to parents. Special cases brought by parents or referred by teachers are seen and examinations of handicapped pupils are carried out.

Apart from an Ophthalmological Clinic held once a fortnight at Willenhall there are no specialists services in the area for school children, these being provided at hospitals or clinics in other districts.

Tuberculosis.

This area is served by the Anti-Tuberculosis Clinic, Bell Street, Wolverhampton, to which cases are referred by a doctor. All treatment is arranged through this clinic and health visiting of tuberculous patients is done by the district Health Visitors. Care and after-care as provided by Section 28 of the National Health Service Act is done by a Social worker working from Wolverhampton.

Infectious Diseases.

Cases of infectious disease occurring in this district are admitted mainly to Moxley Isolation Hospital. Admission is arranged by the Public Health Department during office hours and by direct arrangements between the Medical Practitioner and the hospital at other times.

General Hospitals.

This area is served by the Walsall and Wolverhampton hospitals, admission of patients being arranged by the medical practitioner attending.

Care of Aged and Infirm.

During the year no action was taken under Section 47 of the National Assistance Act, 1948.

Accidents in the Home.

Publicity for the prevention of accidents in the home continued as in the previous year by the display of posters in the Clinics and elsewhere.

SECTION D.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

Water Supply.

The Wolverhampton Corporation Water Undertaking supplies water to the area and at present a major scheme for the improvement of supplies is in course of construction.

I am indebted to Mr. B. L. McMillan, B.Sc., M.Inst.C.E., M.Inst.W.E., Engineer and Manager, Wolverhampton Corporation Water Undertaking for information on which this section of the report is based.

The supply of water to the area has been satisfactory both in quality and in quantity.

Chemical and Bacteriological examination of samples of water from sources of distribution to the area and from houses in the district have given satisfactory results.

Summary of Results of Bacteriological Examinations.

Presumptive Coli-Aerogenes per 100ML.

Total Number of Samples taken		0	1—2		3—10		Over 10.	
883	...	876	...	6	...	1	...	—

The results of a Chemical Analysis of the Water in Supply is as follows :—

Sample taken 5th July, 1950.					Parts per 100,000.
Total Solid Matter dried at 212° F.	...	...	...	...	30.00
Free and Saline Ammonia	...	...	...	...	Nil
Albuminoid	...	...	...	...	0.0008
Nitric Nitrogen	...	...	...	...	0.26
Chlorine	...	...	...	...	4.8
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 80° F.	...	...	...	...	0.004
Appearance	...	...	...	...	Clear
Injurious Metallic Contamination	...	...	...	...	None
pH Value	...	...	...	...	7.4
Hardness before Boiling	...	...	...	...	18.6°
Hardness after Boiling	...	...	...	...	9.4°
Temporary Hardness	...	...	...	...	9.2°

The analysts states that “ this water is chemically of satisfactory quality and if passed bacteriologically may be considered suitable for drinking.” The bacteriological report on the sample of water from the same source was satisfactory.

Samples of water have also been submitted by the Public Health Department for chemical and bacteriological examination at frequent intervals with satisfactory results.

The water supplied has not a plumbo-solvent action.

Figures are not available giving the proportion of dwelling houses supplied direct from the mains as apart from those supplied by standpipes.

Swimming Baths.

Samples of the swimming bath water are taken for analysis during the season. A typical result of such an analysis is given as follows :—

					Parts per 100,000.
Total Solid Matter dried at 212°...	...	...	...	...	70.0
Free and Saline Ammonia	...	...	...	...	0.0560
Albuminoid	...	...	...	...	0.1600
Nitric Nitrogen	...	...	...	...	0.20
Chlorine	...	...	...	...	22.0
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 80° F.	...	...	...	...	0.260
Appearance	...	Very slightly opalescent ; minute trace of suspended matter.			
Injurious Metallic Contamination	...	...	...	...	None.
pH Value	...	...	...	...	6.2
Free Chlorine	...	...	...	...	0.40
					Part per million.

The analyst remarks that “ This water is polluted but the amount of Free Chlorine should render it safe for bathing. A bacteriological sample on the same occasion gave a satisfactory result.

Drainage and Sewerage.

The Engineer and Surveyor has informed me that no developments have occurred during the year in connection with drainage and sewage disposal.

Health in Factories.

The return made on Form 572 in respect of Part I and VIII of the Factories Acts, 1937 and 1948 is reproduced at the back of this report.

SECTION E.

HOUSING.

The Housing Manager has kindly provided the following information :—

Number of houses built and completed by the Local Authority during the year	... ..	60
Number of houses completed by private persons	...	12
Number of houses completed under the post war housing programme by the end of 1950	... ..	*486
Total number of Council Houses in district by the end of 1950	... ..	*2,523
(*These figures include 150 temporary bungalows).		
Number of families rehoused because of overcrowding		56
Number of families rehoused because of Tuberculosis		2
Number of families rehoused from houses on which a demolition order was operative	... ..	13
Number of families rehoused from Clearance Areas	...	Nil

The Council's points scheme for the allocation of houses makes allowance for the consideration of medical conditions in awarding points, and in this connection close co-operation was maintained with the Housing Manager. In connection with tuberculosis if applicant or member of his family was suffering from this disease and housing conditions were unsatisfactory each case was considered separately.

SECTION F.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOODS.

Details of the work done during the year in connection with meat and other foods is given in the report of the Senior Sanitary Inspector.

Bye-laws on the handling, wrapping and delivery of food and sale of food in the open air which are in the form of the Ministry of Food Model Bye-laws have been adopted in the district during the year.

Food Poisoning.

No cases of food poisoning were notified in the district during 1950. The tabulated details of food poisoning are as follows :—

(a)	Total number of Outbreaks...	...	...	...	Nil
(b)	Number of cases	...	...	...	Nil
(c)	Number of deaths	...	...	...	Nil
(d)	Organisms of other agents responsible with number of outbreaks attributable to each	...	...	...	Nil
(e)	Foods involved, with number of outbreaks associated with each food	...	...	...	Nil

REPORT OF THE SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR.

Public Health Offices,
Walsall Street,
Willenhall,
Staffs.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
WILLENHALL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman, and Members,

An Annual Report upon the Health of a District always provides an opportunity for stocktaking, but in this fiftieth year of the present century it is even a more opportune occasion to gaze upon the road which has been travelled.

That we have progressed is easily proved by a comparison of statistics upon diseases occurring fifty years ago and now.

The improvements which have taken place, though they may reflect credit upon our predecessors, do not entitle us to take a complacent view of the future. Many houses are still below the standard necessary for a comfortable and healthy life, there is still too little disregard for the air we breathe, improvement in the standard of hygiene in shops themselves and in places where food is prepared or stored is slow but even slower than many would wish.

During the year Councillor Dr. G. J. Moore, who had served as Chairman of the Public Health Committee since 1947, severed his association with Local Government. It was undoubtedly unfortunate to lose the services of a Chairman who was fearless and who had a thorough understanding of the work and of the difficulties encountered by a Sanitary Inspector.

Thanks are due to many for assistance during the past year, in particular the Chairman of the Health Committee—Councillor A. Webster, and the Clerk of the Council—Mr. J. R. Riding, both for their helpfulness and encouragement. To members of the Health Committee for their earnestness to achieve results for the betterment of the town and to members of the staff of the Department for their wholehearted assistance at all times.

I am, Mr. Chairman and Members,

Your obedient Servant,

H. E. T. LOWBRIDGE,
Senior Sanitary Inspector.

HOUSING.

The Chapel Green Clearance Area was confirmed during the year by the Ministry of Health. This area involves 17 houses. Previous to this Clearance Area, removal of slums in Willenhall had taken place solely as individual unfit houses. One house in every four is allocated by the Housing Department to replace tenants from houses which are demolished under the Housing Act.

The following is a summary of the action taken during the year under the Housing Act, 1936 :—

Chapel Green Clearance Area—Order confirmed	...	17
Number of families removed during the year from houses already subject to Demolition Orders under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936	... ..	13
Number of Demolition Orders made during the year under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936	... ..	17
Number of houses demolished following action under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936	... ..	8
Number of parts of buildings upon which closing orders under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 were made		Nil
Number of houses closed voluntarily upon tenants being removed	... ..	Nil
Number of houses upon which Notices were served requiring repair under Section 9 of the Housing Act, 1936	... ..	Nil

Until considerably more headway has been made with the demolition of unfit houses, the work of inspection and serving of notices to require repairs must be very time consuming. There is little satisfaction to be obtained by either Local Authority or owner in executing what can only be first aid repairs to property which has long since become worn out.

Proceedings were necessary in two instances to secure repairs to dwelling houses. The Summonses were regarding houses at Essington Road and Temple Bar. Costs and an order were obtained for the work to be done within 28 days.

Disinfection and Disinfestation.

The Thresh disinfector which was installed last year is giving satisfactory service.

This was in use 65 days during the year, on 23 occasions for treatment of bedding following infectious disease and 42 occasions to steam disinfest bedding in conjunction with treatment of furniture by Hydrogen Cyanide before removal into Council houses.

This treatment of furniture and effects by Hydrogen Cyanide, whilst aimed primarily at destroying insects such as bugs and fleas and so preventing them infesting Council houses, also destroys other pests such as cockroaches, beetles and woodworm beetles. The infestation of furniture by the woodworm beetle appears to be increasing and is causing concern throughout the country.

In addition to treatment of furniture for woodworm by Hydrogen Cyanide, advice has been given to occupiers to spray with specially prepared insecticide.

During the year 148 premises were sprayed with insecticide to destroy vermin.

Tents, Vans, Sheds and Similar Structures.

We continue to be visited in various parts of the district with van dwellers of all types, Gipsies, Travelling Showmen, Van Dwellers who carry on the business of collecting waste metal from district to district, whilst the temptation to live in a caravan of the trailer type or disused bus because of inability to obtain a house, is very great. Young married couples in particular are frequent callers at these offices for advice before embarking upon this mode of living.

There is no licensed land within the district for caravans. The favourite locations for the nomad type of van dwellers are Darlaston Lane, Dark Lane and Stow Heath.

FOOD PREMISES.

With a Sanitary Inspector engaged solely upon Food Premises and Food Inspection, it was possible to accelerate progress with regard to matters appertaining to Food.

This work in its various phases is reported upon as follows :—

Bakehouses, Food Preparation Premises, Grocers' Shops, Ice Cream Premises, Butchers' Shops.

During the year 67 intimations were served requiring work to be done at Food Premises. The defects found to exist at these premises included internal matters such as floors, wall and ceiling plaster, doors, preparation tables, sinks, hot water supply, storage facilities, and external items, e.g., roofs, eaves guttering, and drainage.

Considerable interest continues to be focussed upon the need for improvement in the handling, storage and preparation of food. During the year the model Bye-laws issued by the Ministry of Food were adopted by this Council. Whilst it is as yet early to fully assess the value of these Bye-laws, it must be borne in mind that the introduction of them is an attempt to meet deficiencies in the existing law relating to food.

One instance of the obstacles which have to be met and overcome is that of the conditions existing with regard to food stalls in the Market Place. To introduce a hygienic food stall, that is one which complies with the Bye-laws, does not appear possible unless the food stalls whether they are intended to sell fruit, vegetables, fish, confectionery or any other article of food, are provided with water and sinks in addition to the stalls themselves being of such design as will prevent contamination of the food exposed for sale.

It appears that the only satisfactory method of providing these hygienic food stalls is to provide a site, preferably adjacent to the existing Market Place where the stalls can be grouped together and equipped with the necessary water, storage accommodation and means of drainage.

Selling from a suitably designed mobile van has many commendable features which should appeal to the street trader. Much work in loading and unloading which is necessary with street stalls is thus avoided, also a stall structure is not required, whilst from considerations of hygiene, provision for waste matters can be made in the vehicle and portable sinks and a water supply can be carried.

Under the Willenhall U.D.C. Act, 1939, the Council have powers to require the registration of any person carrying on the trade of hawker, and also require the registration of any premises from which he trades. One person was registered during the year.

Milk.

During the year a fairly large dairy at Somerford, upon changing ownership, ceased to bottle and sterilise milk.

There are now only a few farms in the district and it appears that the importance of what few remain will be further diminished as further land is required for the erection of houses and factories.

The taking of milk samples for fat content, and bacteriological and biological purposes is carried out by the County Council.

During the year the Council issued the following Licenses :—

<i>Dealers' Licenses.</i>	<i>Supplementary Licenses.</i>
9 Tuberculin Tested.	10 Tuberculin Tested.
6 Accredited.	10 Sterilised.
130 Sterilised.	10 Pasteurised.
12 Pasteurised.	

Ice Cream and Ice Cream Premises.

During the year 17 new premises were registered for the sale of Ice Cream, bringing the total of all premises registered for sale to 54. Six premises are registered for the manufacture of Ice Cream.

It is of interest to observe the improvement in the type of street vehicle for the sale of ice cream. The modern vehicle is equipped with hot and cold water for washing purposes, and adequate protection from contamination of the Ice Cream. As in other phases of Food Hygiene, the public have and can still further greatly assist the endeavours of the Department for the more hygienic vehicle by discrimination in the type of vehicle from which Ice Cream is purchased.

Progress has been rapid since the introduction of the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment, etc.) Regulations of 1947. These Regulations and the submission of samples to the Methylene Blue Test have brought about a vast improvement in the hygienic standard of Ice Cream. Parallel with the increased hygienic and nutritive standard has been the increased consumption of Ice Cream. Increase in mechanisation in making Ice Cream and the wrapping of the finished product have also contributed to a greater purity than existed some years ago. An extract from the results of samples submitted to the Methylene Blue Test shows the continued improvement which has taken place in recent years.

				Grade.			
				1	2	3	4
1948—Number taken	...	85	27	11	19	28	
1949—Number taken	...	128	67	29	17	15	
1950—Number taken	...	190	116	38	21	15	

The following notes give a rough indication of the meaning of the grades :—

1. Good.
2. Fairly good.
3. Poor.
4. Unsatisfactory.

89 samples were taken for fat content purposes and none were found to contain less than $2\frac{1}{2}\%$.

Slaughterhouses and Slaughtering.

As reported upon previously, meat for this District and other surrounding districts is supplied from Wolverhampton Abattoir. Owners of a number of private slaughterhouses which were in existence before the war continue to renew the licences for these slaughterhouses yearly.

There is in this district a Licensed Knacker's Yard and a slaughterhouse where horses are slaughtered for human consumption.

In one licensed slaughterhouse pigs are slaughtered regularly for bacon curing purposes.

A large number of pigs are reared and slaughtered by private individuals. Persons slaughtering these pigs are advised to take them into a slaughterhouse.

Efforts are always made to examine these pigs and in fact all animals slaughtered within the district.

During the year there were examined 1,705 pigs, 440 horses, six cows. The weight of meat condemned was 3 tons 5 cwts. 2 qrs. $16\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.

The causes of condemnation are shown in a table at the end of the report.

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933.

This Act provides that no animal may be slaughtered in a slaughterhouse or knacker's yard unless it is instantaneously slaughtered by means of a mechanically operated instrument. This slaughtering operation can only be done by a person licensed by a Local Authority. There are 43 persons so licensed.

SANITARY ACCOMODATION

The remainder of the houses in Wood Lane were connected to a recently constructed foul sewer and the cesspools abolished.

The construction of a foul sewer in Moseley Road enabled ten cesspools to be abolished. Cesspools are in existence at Mill Lane, Short Heath and Sneyd Road, also privies and cesspools at Hunts Lane and Manor Farm.

Waste Water Closets.

The conversion of Waste Water Closets continues in a similar manner as in previous years that is, after service of notices or by

persuasion on the part of Sanitary Inspectors. The removal of this type of convenience is very necessary, depending as they do for waste water from the kitchen sink they are an insanitary fitting. The Council have not up to the present decided to make a contribution, as they may do under the Public Health Act, 1936, to the owners to require the abolition of this type of convenience.

Below is a table showing the progress in the abolition of waste water closets :—

1948	...	1949	...	1950
43	...	76	...	101

SEWAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The alterations and extensions to the sewage system are still under consideration. The surcharging of the sewers which has been serious for many years is becoming even more aggravated as development of the district by erection of houses and factories progresses.

Offensive Trade Premises.

It was necessary to issue a summons against a factory in Moseley Road which receives condemned meat for conversion into animal feeding stuff and fertiliser. Upon the management removing the accumulation of condemned meat and undertaking to prevent a recurrence in addition to carrying out alterations and improvements to the factory, it was agreed to withdraw the summons.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

The Council, in conjunction with the Fuel Research Station, Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, have since 1st February, 1949, operated 8 lead peroxide gauges in various parts of the district, and a deposit gauge at the rear of the Gas Offices in the Market Place. In addition, but in conjunction with the Council, Messrs. John Harper & Co. Ltd. provide and maintain a lead peroxide gauge, a smoke filter and volumetric sulphur dioxide apparatus for daily readings. These apparatus provide us with readings which will enable us to make valuable comparisons, the usefulness of these results will become more apparent with time. Tabular and graph results are shown at the end of the report.

During the year 46 observations were made by Sanitary Inspectors and in ten of these observations lasting 30 minutes, the emission exceeded two minutes. Bye-laws are in operation making it an offence if a period of two minutes in any 30 minutes is exceeded.

Although there is no "Prior Approval" clause operating in this district, the Department has continued to co-operate with the Engineer and Surveyor in the examination of all plans of new buildings and proposals to extend existing ones. This work is particularly important in that it enables an approach to be

made to manufacturers regarding processes which may create nuisances and so provide, by co-operation, an effective safeguard at the outset.

Whilst Local Authorities are endeavouring to bring about a reduction in air pollution it cannot be too strongly emphasised that the attitude of managements, of workpeople and of house holders is of greatest importance.

The smaller manufacturers must divorce themselves of the attitude that the smoke from their own little factory does not make any difference—there is ample evidence to be gained by a visit to these factories and by visual observation, and if further evidence is needed—by gauge readings, that the contrary is the case.

Operatives or workmen engaged in work causing pollution from combustible or non combustible sources should by now be aware that they themselves, their homes and their neighbours are affected by their very own disregard about pollution. It is now recognised by those who are concerned with atmospheric pollution that stoking is a skilled occupation and that to acquire skill a stoker should be trained. Managements in their turn should recognise this skill and reward it accordingly. It is not difficult to prove that a skilled stoker can considerably reduce expenditure on fuel when competing against the unskilled.

Domestic smoke is responsible for half of the pollution. Housewives particularly can give assistance by installing grates capable of burning smokeless fuels—many grates are now manufactured which burn all types of fuel, smokeless or otherwise more efficiently than earlier types of grates. Owners and householders are particularly reminded to give thought to smokeless fuel grates when replacing existing grates.

Gas and electricity, whilst being excellent smokeless fuels, are likely to be a considerable time before being used extensively for house warming purposes.

FACTORIES

Inspection of factories under the Sanitary Accommodation Regulations, 1938, were made during the year. It was possible to make inspections of a routine nature as distinct from those which are made following complaints. 260 inspections were made and defects were found in 53 instances. The defects chiefly concerned insufficient, unsuitable or defective sanitary conveniences. An opportunity has been taken by Inspectors when visiting factories for the purpose of the Sanitary Accommodation Regulations to combine the inspection with that of recording details of the canteen, should there be one at the particular factory. It is intended to give special attention to factory canteens along with other food preparation premises.

RODENT CONTROL

The Council have the services of a Rodent Officer and Operator.

Routine work has been carried out on Refuse Tips, Sewage Works, and the River Tame. Two treatments have been carried out upon Sewers in accordance with the Ministry of Agriculture directions.

Treatment of dwelling houses is carried out free, whilst a charge is made for business premises.

A yearly report is now required to be furnished to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries upon the work carried out by a Local Authority under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

This report covers the period from **31st March, 1950, to 31st December, 1950.** A copy of the report is included in the tables at the end of the report, it will be seen that 1,016 visits were made to dwelling houses, and 144 visits to business premises, whilst in connection with sewerage work 552 manholes were treated.

105 complaints were received from occupiers of houses of the presence of rats.

During the year there came into operation the Prevention of Damage by Pests (Threshing and Dismantling of Ricks) Regulations, 1950. These Regulations place a responsibility on the owner of any rick of corn, peas, beans, tares or linseed to destroy Rats and Mice escaping from the rick. Persons dismantling ricks are required first to surround the rick with a fence 30-ins. high, the fence must be of such material as to be impenetrable by rats. A copy of these Regulations was circulated to all persons to whom it was thought they would be applicable.

Table I.

**BIRTH RATES, DEATH RATES, ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY,
MATERNAL MORTALITY AND CASE RATES FOR CERTAIN
INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN THE YEAR 1950.**

Provisional figures based on Weekly and Quarterly Returns.

		Willen- hall.	England and Wales.	126 County Boroughs and Great Towns. (including London)	148 Smaller Towns (Resident) Population 25,000— 50,000 at 1931 Census)	London Adminis- trative County					
Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population.											
<i>Births.</i>											
Live Births	15.7	...	15.8	...	17.6	...	16.7	...	17.8
Still Births	0.65	...	0.37	...	0.45	...	0.38	...	0.36
<i>Deaths.</i>											
All causes	12.97*	...	11.6	...	12.3	...	11.6	...	11.8
Typhoid and Para- typhoid	—	...	0.00	...	0.00	...	0.00	...	0.00
Whooping Cough	0.00	...	0.01	...	0.01	...	0.01	...	0.01
Diphtheria	0.00	...	0.00	...	0.00	...	0.00	...	0.00
Tuberculosis	0.38	...	0.36	...	0.42	...	0.33	...	0.39
Influenza	0.03	...	0.10	...	0.09	...	0.10	...	0.07
Smallpox	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—
Acute Poliomyelitis (in- cluding polioen- cephalitis)	0.03	...	0.02	...	0.02	...	0.02	...	0.01
Pneumonia	0.32	...	0.46	...	0.49	...	0.45	...	0.48
<i>Notifications (Corrected)</i>											
Typhoid Fever	—	...	0.00	...	0.00	...	0.00	...	0.01
Paratyphoid Fever	—	...	0.01	...	0.01	...	0.01	...	0.01
Meningococcal infection	—	...	0.03	...	0.03	...	0.02	...	0.03
Scarlet Fever	0.48	...	1.50	...	1.56	...	1.61	...	1.23
Whooping Cough	6.04	...	3.60	...	3.97	...	3.15	...	3.21
Diphtheria	0.09	...	0.02	...	0.03	...	0.02	...	0.03
Erysipelas	0.09	...	0.17	...	0.19	...	0.16	...	0.17
Smallpox	—	...	0.00	...	0.00	...	—	...	—
Measles	8.23	...	8.39	...	8.76	...	8.36	...	6.57

Table II.

**CAUSES OF DEATH IN WILLENHALL URBAN DISTRICT
DURING 1950. REGISTRAR-GENERAL'S RETURN.**

<i>Causes of Death.</i>	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Tuberculosis Respiratory System ...	8	4	12
Influenza	1	—	1
Acute Poliomyelitis	1	—	1
Cancer of Uterus	—	1	1
Cancer of Stomach	2	4	6
Cancer of Breast	—	6	6
Cancer of Lungs, Bronchus	6	2	8
Cancer all other sites	16	13	29
Vascular lesions of nervous system ...	22	18	40
Diabetes	—	1	1
Heart Diseases	43	36	79
Other Diseases of circulatory system ...	8	5	13
Bronchitis... ..	17	8	25
Pneumonia	6	4	10
Other Respiratory Diseases	3	1	4
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum ...	1	—	1
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ...	3	—	3
Hyperplasia of prostate	1	—	1
Nephritis	4	2	6
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1	—	1
Congenital malformations	4	6	10
Motor vehicle accidents	2	1	3
Suicide	2	2	4
All other accidents	2	3	5
All other causes	28	23	51
All causes	181	140	321

Table III.
QUARTERLY SUMMARY OF DEATHS ARRANGED IN AGE GROUPS.

Age Group.	1st. Quarter.		2nd Quarter.		3rd Quarter.		4th Quarter.		Total.		Percentage.
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
Under 1 year	5	3	3	3	5	2	4	—	17	8	7.8%
1—5 years	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	.3%
5—10	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	2	—	.6%
10—15	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	2	1	.9%
15—25	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	1	.6%
25—35	1	1	—	3	—	—	1	2	2	6	2.4%
35—45	2	1	3	1	—	1	—	—	5	3	2.4%
45—55	7	6	2	3	3	—	5	—	17	9	8.1%
55—65	4	5	8	7	5	3	11	10	28	25	16.5%
65—80	27	17	23	11	14	11	24	17	88	56	44.8%
80 years and over	7	9	5	7	3	5	4	9	19	30	15.2%
Totals	53	42	45	36	31	22	52	40	181	140	

Table IV.

INFANTILE MORTALITY DURING 1950.

Cause of Deaths.	Under 1 day.	Under 1 week.	1—2 weeks.	2—3 weeks.	3—4 weeks.	Total deaths under 1 month.	1—3 months	3—6 months	6—9 months	9—12 months	Total deaths under 1 Year.
Prematurity ...	2	4	—	—	—	6	—	—	—	—	6
Pneumonia ...	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	1	—	—	2
Pulmonary Atelactasis	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Enteritis ...	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	2
Asphyxia ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Intracranial Haemorrhage (Birth Injury)...	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Congenital Malformations or defects ...	4	2	—	1	1	8	1	1	—	—	10
Accident ...	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	1	2
Totals ...	6	8	1	1	3	19	1	3	—	2	25

Table V.
INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED DURING 1950 (EXCLUDING TUBERCULOSIS).

Disease.	Age Groups — Years.													
	Total	Under 1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-25	25-35	35-45	45-55	65 & over	Age Un- known
Measles	255	5	19	32	32	32	131	3	1	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough...	187	15	28	28	39	26	48	2	—	1	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever ...	15	—	1	—	6	1	4	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria ...	6	—	1	—	1	1	1	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia ...	21	2	1	—	—	—	—	2	2	1	1	4	7	1
Erysipelas... ..	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	—
Acute Polioencephalitis ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis ...	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
Totals	492	22	50	60	78	60	185	10	5	6	2	5	8	1

Table VI.
TUBERCULOSIS

in Willenhall (including the former Short Heath U.D.) showing the new cases notified and the deaths each year since the commencement of compulsory notification.

Year.	New Cases.		Deaths;	
	Pulmonary.	Non-Pulmonary.	Pulmonary.	Non-Pulmonary.
1912	85	—	19	1
1913	87	24	22	13
1914	66	22	21	13
1915	55	11	13	12
1916	65	13	23	11
1917	71	18	28	6
1918	56	8	44	4
1919	29	6	20	7
1920	29	6	14	4
1921	24	—	24	2
1922	55	15	34	7
1923	45	12	30	9
1924	19	5	27	5
1925	67	14	25	10
1926	71	11	24	5
1927	25	12	25	4
1928	39	12	17	3
1929	40	9	34	3
1930	42	3	29	3
1931	36	5	27	1
1932	36	3	16	6
1933	41	11	26	4
1934	45	5	14	5
1935	33	9	25	5
1936	47	5	14	3
1937	44	8	25	6
1938	45	8	22	6
1939	30	7	20	3
1940	40	5	24	3
1941	40	9	25	9
1942	38	7	23	—
1943	49	12	18	3
1944	42	10	19	3
1945	30	4	25	—
1946	35	9	20	1
1947	40	9	20	7
1948	41	3	25	3
1949	34	2	11	—
1950	31	1	12	—
Totals	1,747	333	884	190

Table VII.
INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED FROM 1943 TO 1950.

Disease.	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950
Scarlet Fever ...	202	55	89	51	45	102	31	15
Diphtheria ...	23	18	18	19	21	22	9	6
Pneumonia ...	52	35	40	21	18	15	27	21
Erysipelas ...	5	6	6	7	3	8	8	3
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	7	2	2	2	1	—	1	2
Cerebro-Spinal Fever ...	—	—	3	4	6	—	1	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	6	1	1	1	—	—	—	—
Dysentery ...	1	2	1	—	31	1	1	—
Acute Poliomyelitis ...	—	1	—	—	2	1	3	2
Smallpox ...	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
Chicken-Pox ...	—	—	—	—	10	—	—	—
Acute Polioencephalitis ...	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Measles ...	362	14	262	6	409	277	122	255
Whooping Cough ...	28	92	51	71	68	121	35	187
Malaria ...	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—
Paratyphoid ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Totals ...	686	226	474	183	618	547	239	492

Table VIII.
FACTORIES ACT, 1937 .. ANNUAL REPORT.

1.—INSPECTIONS.

Premises. (1)	M/c. line No. (2)	Number on Register (3)	Number of			M/c. line No. (7)
			Inspections. (4)	Written notices (5)	Occupiers prosecuted (6)	
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ...	1	—	—	—	—	1
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	2	—	260	18	—	2
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	3	—	—	—	—	3
TOTAL	—	343	260	18	—	—

2.—CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

Particulars. (1)	M/c. line No. (2)	Number of cases in which defects were found.				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted. (7)	M c. line No. No. (8)
		Found. (3)	Remedied. (4)	Referred to H.M. Inspector. (5)	By H.M. Inspector. (6)		
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ...	4	1	1	—	—	—	4
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	5	—	—	—	—	—	5
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ...	6	—	—	—	—	—	6
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ...	7	—	—	—	—	—	7
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ...	8	—	—	—	—	—	8
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7) :							
(a) Insufficient ...	9	2	1	—	1	—	9
(b) Unsuitable of defective ...	10	33	27	—	4	—	10
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	11	2	2	—	—	—	11
Other offences against the Act (not in- cluding offences relating to Outwork)	12	15	15	—	—	—	12
TOTAL ...	60	53	46	—	5	—	60

Table IX.

**SUMMARY OF THE PRINCIPAL ROUTINE VISITS OF THE
SANITARY INSPECTORS.**

Complaints, requests for visits of Inspectors made to the Sanitary Department	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,482
Primary inspection of Dwelling Houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	932
Revisits	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,469
Absence of adequate water supply, or satisfactory water supply	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Drainage	...	...	...	...	...	...	447
Inspection of premises where pigs and other animals are kept	...	...	...	...	...	...	85
Offensive Trades	...	...	...	...	...	...	42
Tents, Vans and Sheds	...	...	...	...	...	...	38
Factories	...	...	...	...	...	...	260
Workshops	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Outworkers	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Smoke Observations and Slides of Grit Emissions	...	...	...	...	...	...	64
Schools	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Shops (Sanitary provisions of Shops' Acts)	...	...	...	...	...	...	79
Fried Fish Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	52
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
Butcher's Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	136
Grocers	...	...	...	...	...	...	226
Food Preparation Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	147
Licensed Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	27
Fishmongers and Poultry Dealers	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Green Grocers and Fruiterers	...	...	...	...	...	...	24
Cowsheds and Dairies	...	...	...	...	...	...	35
Ice Cream Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	341
Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	515
Knacker's Yard	...	...	...	...	...	...	241
Examination of Cottagers' Pigs	...	...	...	...	...	...	34
Market Stalls	...	...	...	...	...	...	576
Restaurants	...	...	...	...	...	...	43
Hawkers	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
Visits to works in progress	...	...	...	...	...	...	312
Verminous Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	40
Revisits	...	...	...	...	...	...	32
Infectious disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	56
Accumulation of Refuse	...	...	...	...	...	...	66
Waste Water Closets and Water Closets	...	...	...	...	...	...	500
Atmospheric Pollution gauges	...	...	...	...	...	...	48

Table X.

**PRINCIPAL IMPROVEMENTS EFFECTED BY COMPLIANCE
WITH NOTICES.**

Internal.

Wall and ceiling plaster or brickwork	...	...	...	...	...	...	110
Doors and window frames	...	...	...	...	...	...	85
Defective firegrates	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
Floors	...	...	...	...	...	...	54
Stairs	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Dirty conditions	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Dampness	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Cellars	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

External.

Roofs	...	...	...	...	...	...	91
Chimneys	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Pointing	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Eaves guttering and down spouting	...	...	...	...	...	...	34
Paving	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Drainage	...	...	...	...	...	...	21
Fractured and defective brickwork	...	...	...	...	...	...	41
Rain water tanks	...	...	...	...	...	...	8

Washing Accommodation.

Washing boilers	20
Defective sinks	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Absence of or defective water supply	...	...	...	...	...	...	15

Sanitary Accommodation.

Cesspools	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Insufficient or defective W.C's.	...	...	...	...	...	...	28
Dirty condition of W.C's.	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Defective waste water closets	...	...	...	...	...	...	99
Insufficient closet accommodation	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Accumulations	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Insanitary Piggeries, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	...	22

**FOOD PREMISES, including Butchers, Grocers, Fried Fish Shops,
Bakehouses and Licensed Premises.**

Internal.

Floors	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
Walls and ceiling plaster	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	41
Doors and window frames	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Preparation Tables	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Storage	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Counters and shelving	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3

External.

Roofs	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
Eaves guttering	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Drainage	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Brickwork	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3

Washing Accommodation.

Sinks	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Absence of or defective water supply	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	18

Sanitary Accommodation.

Defective or insufficient W.C's.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9

**Table XI.
UN SOUND FOOD.**

					<i>Cwts. Qrs. Lbs.</i>		
166 tins Fish	...	...	...	...	1	1	3 $\frac{1}{4}$
69 tins Meat	...	...	...	...		1	20
85 tins Milk	...	...	...	...	1	0	15 $\frac{3}{4}$
327 tins Fruit and Vegetables	...	...	...	...	3	3	14 $\frac{3}{4}$
36 Tins and Jars of Jam...	...	...	...	...		2	12 $\frac{1}{2}$
					<hr/>		
					7	1	10 $\frac{1}{4}$
					<hr/>		

Other foods condemned which were not packed consisted chiefly of Frozen Eggs, Cheese, Flour, Slab Cake, Xmas Puddings and Nuts. The total weight of these foods was 3 cwts. 1 qr. 17 lbs.

Table XI—continued.

PARTICULARS OF CARCASSES INSPECTED, TOGETHER WITH PARTICULARS OF CARCASSES OR PARTS THEREOF CONDEMNED, IN FORM REQUIRED BY THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH.

	Cattle excluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.	Horses.
Number killed and inspected	—	6	—	—	1,705	440
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS :						
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—	3
Carcasses of which some part or organ was con- demned	—	3	—	—	38	94
Percentage of the number inspected affected with all diseases except tuberculosis	—	50%	—	—	2.22%	22%
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY :						
Whole carcasses condemned	—	3	—	—	6	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was con- demned	—	—	—	—	70	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	—	50%	—	—	4.45%	—

Weight found to be diseased, unsound and unfit for human consumption :—

	T.	C.	Q.	lbs.
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS	13	1	2	Carcase Meat.
	18	0	1	Offals.
TUBERCULOUS ONLY	1	2	0	Carcase Meat.
	12	0	19½	Offals.
	3	5	2	16½ TOTAL.

Table XII.

ICE CREAM SAMPLES FOR THE METHYLENE BLUE TEST.

<i>Date taken.</i>	<i>No. taken.</i>	<i>Grade 1</i>	<i>Grade 2</i>	<i>Grade 3</i>	<i>Grade 4</i>
January ...	14	14	—	—	—
February ...	11	6	4	—	1
March ...	16	14	1	1	—
April ...	24	16	7	1	—
May ...	22	16	2	3	1
June ...	29	8	6	9	6
July ...	32	17	7	3	5
August ...	10	6	1	2	1
September ...	14	8	4	2	—
October ...	9	2	6	—	1
November ...	7	7	—	—	—
December ...	2	2	—	—	—
Total ...	190	116	38	21	15
Taken in 1949 ...	128	67	29	17	15

No. of Ice Cream Premises registered for sale of Ice Cream during 1950 ... 17

Premises on register for manufacture or sale of Ice Cream :

Manufacturers by Hot Mix Method ... 1

Manufacturers by Cold Mix Method ... 5

No. of shops registered for the sale of Ice Cream ... 54

REGISTRATION OF HAWKERS.

No. of Hawkers registered during 1950 under the Willenhall hall Urban District Council Act ... 1

Table XIII.

ACTION TAKEN FOR DISINFECTION OF PREMISES AND ARTICLES.

Number of rooms disinfected with Formalin or Formaldehyde 25

Number of rooms sprayed with Insecticide to destroy vermin 148

Articles disinfected and disinfested (bedding) ... 251

Bedding destroyed ... 10

Table XIV.
PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.
Report for period 31st March to 31st December, 1950.

1.—PREVALENCE OF RATS AND MICE.

Type of Property.	Total. (i)	Number of Properties in local Authority's Area in which infestation was :			Analysis of Column (iv)		
		Notified by Occupier. (ii)	Otherwise discovered (iii)	Recorded Total of (ii) and (iii) (iv)	Number infested by		
					Rats		Mice only (vii)
					Major (v)	Minor (vi)	
Local Authority's Property ...	10	—	5	5	2	3	—
Dwelling house ...	8,189	105	55	160	12	95	53
Business Premises ...	1,000	17	17	34	7	12	15
Agriculture Property ...	11	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	9,210	122	77	199	21	110	68

Table XIV—continued.

2.—MEASURES OF CONTROL BY LOCAL AUTHORITY.

Type of Property.	No. of Properties Inspected.	No. of Inspections made.	Number of Notices Served		Number of treatments carried out.				Block treatments of properties in different occupancies under Sec. 6 (1) or by informal arrangement.		
					By arrangement with occupier.		Under Sec. 5 (1).				
			Treatments	Works	Rats	Mice only	Rats	Mice only	No. of Blocks.	Surface	Assoc. Sewers.
			No. of	No. of	No. of	No. of	No. of	No. of	No. of	No. of	No. of
Local Authority's Property	10	150	—	—	12	1	—	—	1	—	552
Dwelling House ...	250	1016	—	—	65	43	—	—	52	—	—
Business Premises ...	19	144	—	—	19	14	1	—	—	—	—
Agricultural Property ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	279	1310	—	—	96	58	1	—	53	—	552

Table XV.

SULPHUR POLLUTION.

Lead Peroxide Gauges. Table shows weight of S O₂ (Sulphur Dioxide) collected in milligrams per 100 sq. cm. per day for January to December, 1950. For comparison, 1949 figures are shown in brackets. Readings commenced on 1st February, 1949.

1950 and 1949.	Cemetery Walsall Road.	Memorial Park.	66, Dilloyways Lane.	James Works, St. Anne's Road.	66, Broad Lane.	Lodge Farm, Short Heath.	Ravens- croft, Lodge St.	145, Pooles Lane.	J. Harper & Co. Ltd. Clarke's Lane.
January ...	2.36	2.90	2.81	3.04	1.80	2.45	1.52	1.47	2.60
February ...	2.14 (2.36)	2.60 (2.00)	2.05 (1.81)	3.80 (2.64)	1.74 (1.50)	2.43 (2.09)	1.61 (1.54)	1.34 (1.54)	2.60 (2.99)
March ...	1.58 (1.45)	2.38 (1.80)	1.88 (1.80)	3.50 (2.44)	1.46 (1.42)	2.08 (1.75)	1.44 (1.12)	1.25 (1.24)	2.324 (2.60)
April ...	1.02 (1.07)	1.21 (1.33)	1.19 (1.18)	2.18 (1.85)	0.86 (0.98)	1.12 (0.79)	0.92 (1.04)	0.85 (0.885)	2.23 (1.58)
May ...	1.96 (0.45)	2.05 (0.66)	1.47 (1.00)	3.27 (1.40)	1.67 (0.71)	2.13 (0.67)	1.85 (0.70)	2.00 (0.67)	2.67 (1.18)
June ...	0.627	0.946	0.709	1.068	0.555	0.717	0.513	0.512	1.074
July ...	(0.46)	(0.316)	(0.47)	(1.11)	(0.191)	(0.436)	(0.186)	(0.789)	(0.906)
August ...	0.303 (0.54)	0.323 (0.632)	0.398 (0.771)	1.082 (1.130)	0.636 (0.622)	0.303 (0.761)	0.388 (0.545)	0.492 (0.701)	0.808 (1.163)
September ...	0.343 (0.573)	0.365 (0.803)	0.369 (0.567)	1.048 (0.833)	0.569 (0.526)	0.323 (0.738)	0.460 (0.615)	0.627 (0.552)	0.908 (0.953)
October ...	0.768 (1.09)	0.795 (1.38)	0.842 (1.31)	1.543 (2.18)	0.758 (0.839)	0.812 (1.19)	0.780 (0.88)	0.712 (0.944)	1.153 (1.84)
November ...	1.28 (2.90)	2.81 (2.96)	1.36 (2.90)	1.97 (3.60)	0.80 (3.12)	1.12 (2.41)	1.04 (2.06)	0.78 (2.19)	1.28 (3.33)
December ...	1.99 (2.28)	2.39 (3.50)	2.80 (2.67)	3.43 (3.64)	3.71 (2.36)	2.96 (2.50)	2.44 (1.76)	1.83 (1.90)	3.41 (3.40)
	1.19 (2.074)	2.20 (2.247)	1.15 (2.60)	1.75 (3.47)	1.97 (3.15)	1.76 (2.80)	1.41 (2.383)	3.03 (2.533)	1.24 (3.42)

Table XVI.
ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION.

Deposit Gauges situated in Market Place at rear of Gas Offices, and in the grounds of Messrs. John Harper & Co. Ltd., Clarkes Lane, Willenhall.

Recordings for the year 1950.

Figures in brackets are for the year 1949 and are given for comparison.

Readings commenced at Market Place 1st February, 1949, and at Messrs. John Harper & Co. Ltd. 1st March, 1949.

Deposits in tons per square mile :—

Market Place.				J. Harper & Co. Ltd., Clarkes Lane.		
1950 (1949)	Soluble.	Insoluble.	Totals.	Soluble.	Insoluble.	Totals.
January ...	0.91 (—)	10.81 (—)	11.72 (—)	1.05 (—)	16.96 (—)	18.01 (—)
February ...	0.775 (16.95)	15.97 (10.44)	16.745 (27.39)	1.055 (—)	13.42 (—)	14.475 (—)
March ...	7.22 (3.44)	33.75 (9.74)	40.97 (13.18)	6.30 (5.31)	31.21 (19.03)	37.51 (24.34)
April ...	3.37 (10.78)	8.54 (30.07)	11.91 (40.85)	5.10 (15.78)	17.97 (30.21)	23.07 (45.99)
May ...	6.40 (4.08)	15.64 (19.34)	22.04 (23.42)	9.19 (3.13)	18.19 (12.6)	27.38 (15.73)
June ...	4.23 (3.03)	9.77 (15.57)	14.00 (18.60)	5.89 (4.08)	16.33 (20.87)	22.22 (24.95)
July ...	33.69 (4.41)	13.27 (22.34)	46.96 (26.75)	27.22 (6.23)	10.31 (24.65)	37.53 (30.88)
August ...	25.27 (—)	8.51 (—)	33.78 (—)	34.03 (5.03)	7.69 (13.07)	41.72 (18.10)
September	84.76 (11.52)	9.09 (30.78)	93.85 (42.30)	75.55 (8.85)	9.87 (46.25)	85.42 (55.10)
October ...	21.90 (2.56)	8.76 (14.22)	30.66 (16.78)	40.84 (0.715)	7.55 (14.05)	48.39 (14.765)
November...	11.52 (3.71)	10.04 (11.99)	21.56 (15.70)	12.25 (5.955)	13.36 (12.73)	25.61 (18.685)
December	11.53 (0.64)	18.80 (12.96)	30.33 (13.60)	9.56 (0.851)	11.77 (16.60)	21.33 (17.451)

